

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Women's Rights National Historical Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: WORI

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

On July 19-20, 1848, 300 women and men gathered within the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York to discuss to the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of women in the United States. During those two days, convention participants publicly proclaimed that all men and women were created equal. They debated and unanimously adopted the Declaration of Sentiments, based upon the Declaration of Independence. This revolutionary document outlined a series of grievances and resolutions and laid the foundation for decades of struggle for equal rights for women in America.

Women's Rights National Historical Park was established in 1980 to preserve and interpret for the education, inspiration, and benefit of current and future generations the nationally significant sites and structures associated with the formal beginning of the struggle of women for equal rights in America. Today visitors from around the globe come to visit the Park, the birthplace of women's rights in the United States.

As the National Park Service moves toward its centennial celebration, we as stewards of these special places in Seneca Falls and neighboring Waterloo, have an unparalleled opportunity. Working with local communities and our friends and partners we can better preserve our historic structures, revitalize our landscapes, and create opportunities for visitors near and far to learn about the events that happened here and the people who shaped our history.

The homes of Elizabeth Cady Stanton in Seneca Falls and the M'Clintocks and the Hunts in Waterloo provide opportunities to learn about the people who played critical roles in the nascent women's rights movement and in the antislavery movement. Although great strides have been made to ensure the long-term preservation of these homes and of the Wesleyan Chapel, much work remains to be done. Numerous projects to preserve these structures have been identified. Additional archeological study would increase our ability to better protect the park's archeological resources and rehabilitate the landscapes surrounding these structures.

Projects have also been identified which will enhance interpretive and educational opportunities. Media and exhibitory can be developed that will utilize emerging technology and contemporary scholarship to better connect people - young and old, on-site and at a distance to park resources. Additional emphasis on collections acquisition and use will further enhance these efforts.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Tina Orcutt

Site: WOR1

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Women's Rights NHP is committed to provide opportunities for all visitors to learn about the important sites and stories associated with the birth of the women's rights movement in the United States. Making our facilities and programs accessible to those with disabilities is a top priority.

Funds would enable the park to conduct an accessibility study to evaluate existing traffic signage, parking, paths, doorways, posted placards re: ADA accessibility, web presence, printed matter and exhibits and interpretive programming against ADA and NYS standards for accessibility and provide a recommended treatment plan for all facilities and services.

With funding we would also replace aging laser disk system in park theater with a DVD system capable of providing open captions, audio-description, and supporting assistive listening devices available for those with hearing loss, and to produce an open captioned and audio described DVD version of the film "Dreams of Equality."

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: WORI

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

Funds would allow for the rehabilitation of significant park historic structures such as the Wesleyan Chapel, Hunt House, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton House.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

Funds would enable the park to undertake historic preservation projects and initiate preservation maintenance activities to improve the condition of high-priority assets.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Funds would allow for the completion of critical cultural resource inventories. Archeological study is needed adjacent to the Stanton, Hunt, and M'Clintock houses in order to ensure the protection of potential archeological resources. This information is also needed so that cultural landscape reports and treatment plans can be prepared. The condition of cultural landscapes throughout the park could be improved with the implementation of cultural landscape rehabilitation plans.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: WORI

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Funds are being sought to implement a completed energy reduction plan. Window replacement throughout the park visitor center and headquarters building could also significantly reduce energy use in the facility.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: WOR1

RECREATION

☒ Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level-federal, regional, state, local-to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Through a collaborative effort, visitors could utilize water-borne transportation to access park sites. Bank stabilization and construction of a boat docking facility adjacent to the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House would allow boaters along the Seneca-Cayuga Canal, which passes through both Seneca Falls and Waterloo, access to key park sites.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: WOR1

EDUCATION

☒ Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

In cooperation with educators and park partners, curriculum-based on and off-site programming can be enhanced and further developed. In particular, funds to support the development of on-line and distance-learning opportunities could have far-reaching impacts.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: WOR1

EDUCATION

☒ Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The exhibits currently in the park visitor center employ scholarship, media, and technology from the early 1990's. An evaluation and exhibit rehabilitation would allow for enhanced opportunities for visitors young and old to connect to the important stories, people, and resources interpreted at Women's Rights NHP.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: WORL

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

A safety evaluation and recommendation plan are requested to ensure that all park employees and visitors are in a safe environment. Funds to replace visitor center windows and sidewalk pavers are also requested in an effort to ensure safety as well.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS